

# FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT IN ALASKA

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **For More Information Contact:**

Chair, Federal Subsistence Board  
c/o U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Subsistence Management  
1011 East Tudor Road  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Voice: toll-free (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888  
Fax: (907) 786-3898  
E-mail: bill\_knauer@fws.gov

## **INTRODUCTION**

This booklet contains important information on seasons, harvest limits, methods and means, and customary and traditional use determinations related to the **taking of fish and wildlife** on Federal public lands for subsistence uses. These regulations are effective from July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000. Managed subsistence activities include the taking of most species of land mammals, grouse and ptarmigan, fish and shellfish.

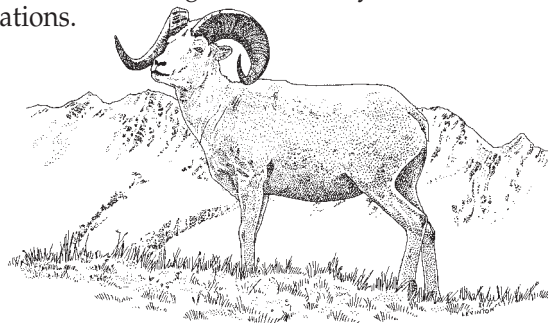
On July 1, 1990, the Federal Government assumed responsibility for the management of subsistence taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands in Alaska. Federal public lands include lands managed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, as well as non-navigable waters on these lands, and certain navigable and marine waters.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 requires that subsistence users have a priority over other users to take fish and wildlife on Federal public lands where a recognized consistent and traditional pattern of use exists. When it is necessary to restrict the taking of fish and wildlife on these lands, subsistence uses are given preference over other consumptive uses.

The public is responsible for complying with Federal subsistence regulations, as well as with additional regulatory changes and/or temporary and emergency closures or restrictions implemented by the Federal Subsistence Board during the regulatory year. The purpose of these regulations is to provide the opportunity for rural Alaska residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so. To protect subsistence opportunities, it is essential that healthy fish and wildlife populations be conserved.

## **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD**

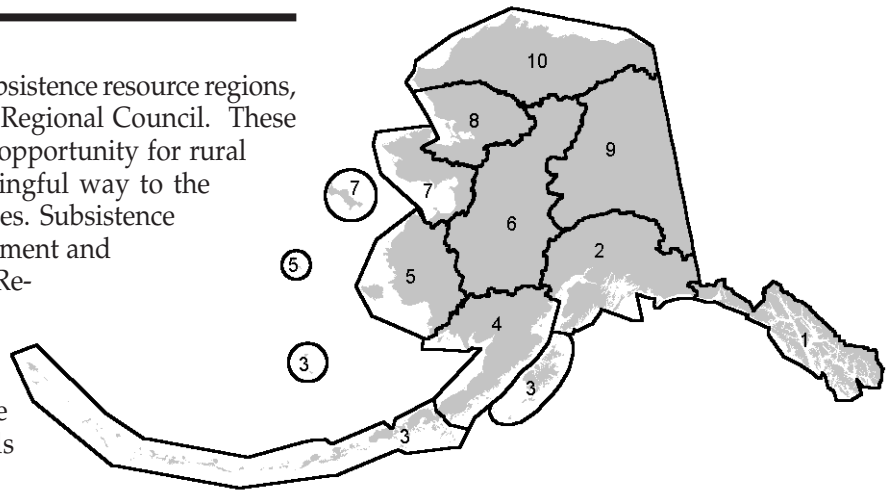
A Federal Subsistence Board oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Alaska directors of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, are members of the Board. A representative of the Secretary of the Interior serves as chair. Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and State of Alaska representatives play an active role in Board deliberations.



## **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS**

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Alaska has been divided into ten subsistence resource regions, each of which is represented by a Regional Council. These ten Regional Councils provide an opportunity for rural Alaskans to contribute in a meaningful way to the management of subsistence resources. Subsistence users have the opportunity to comment and offer input on subsistence issues at Regional Council meetings, which are held at least twice a year. The Regional Councils develop proposals to change Federal subsistence regulations and review proposals submitted by others.



### **Regional Council Membership**

Regional Council members are appointed by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture. Members must reside in the area they wish to represent and have knowledge of regional subsistence uses and needs. If you are interested in applying for membership, please contact the Regional Coordinator for your region (below) or (800) 478-1456.

The Regional Councils represent

- (1) Southeast
- (2) Southcentral
- (3) Kodiak/Aleutian Islands
- (4) Bristol Bay
- (5) Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta
- (6) Western Interior
- (7) Seward Peninsula
- (8) Northwest Arctic
- (9) Eastern Interior
- (10) North Slope

## **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COORDINATORS**

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Six Regional Coordinators facilitate communication between the Regional Councils and the Federal Subsistence Board. Each Regional Coordinator is responsible for one or two regions, and serves as a contact for the Regional Councils, Federal agency staffs and the public. Contact the Regional Coordinators for more information on the activities of each Regional Council.

### **Southeast Region:**

Fred Clark, Juneau  
(800) 586-7895 or (907) 586-7895  
Fax: (907) 586-7860  
E-mail: Fred\_Clark@fws.gov

### **Southcentral and Bristol Bay regions:**

Helga Eakon, Anchorage  
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888  
Fax: (907) 786-3898  
E-mail: Helga\_C\_Eakon@fws.gov

### **Kodiak/Aleutian Islands and Seward Peninsula regions:**

Cliff Edenshaw, Anchorage  
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888  
Fax: (907) 786-3898  
E-mail: Cliff\_Edenshaw@fws.gov

### **Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region:**

John Andrew, Bethel  
(800) 621-5804 or (907) 543-3151  
Fax: (907) 543-4413  
E-mail: John\_Andrew@fws.gov

### **Eastern and Western Interior regions:**

Vince Mathews, Fairbanks  
(800) 267-3997 or (907) 456-0277  
Fax: (907) 456-0208  
E-mail: Vince\_Mathews@fws.gov

### **Northwest Arctic and North Slope regions:**

Barb Armstrong, Anchorage  
(800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888  
Fax: (907) 786-3898  
E-mail: Barb\_Armstrong@fws.gov

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

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### **1** **Are you a rural Alaska resident?**

You must be a rural Alaska resident to harvest fish and wildlife under Federal subsistence regulations. All communities and areas in Alaska are rural with the following exceptions:

- Adak
- Municipality of Anchorage
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Homer area (including Homer, Anchor Point, Kachemak City, and Fritz Creek)
- Juneau area (including Juneau, West Juneau and Douglas)
- Kenai area (including Kenai, Soldotna, Sterling, Nikiski, Salamatof, Kalifornsky, Kasilof, and Clam Gulch)
- Ketchikan area (including Ketchikan City, Clover Pass, North Tongass Highway, Ketchikan East, Mountain Point, Herring Cove, Saxman East, and parts of Pennock Island)
- Seward area (including Seward and Moose Pass)
- Valdez
- Wasilla area (including Palmer, Wasilla, Sutton, Big Lake, Houston, and Bodenberg Butte)

You must have your primary, permanent residence in a rural area to qualify to hunt or fish under Federal subsistence regulations. A seasonal residence does not qualify you as a rural resident.

### **2** **Do you qualify for customary and traditional use?**

The Federal Subsistence Board determines which communities or areas have customarily and traditionally taken a wildlife population or fish stock. These customary and traditional use determinations are listed along with seasons and harvest limits in each management unit. There are additional National Park Service eligibility requirements that apply to National Park System areas (see page 6).

If the Board has not made a customary and traditional use determination for a wildlife population or fish stock in the unit, then **all rural residents** of Alaska may use that stock or population. If there is a positive determination for specific communities or areas, only those communities and areas have a Federal subsistence priority for that species in that unit.

**No Federal subsistence priority** means that the Federal Subsistence Board has determined that there is no customary and traditional subsistence use of that wildlife population or fish stock. In these cases, there are no Federal subsistence seasons for that area. Hunting or fishing may be permitted under State of Alaska regulations.

### **3** **Will you be hunting, trapping or fishing on Federal public lands?**

The regulations apply to Federal public lands only. Such lands include lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S.D.A Forest Service. The regulations do not apply to State lands, private lands, or Federal lands selected by the State of Alaska or Native corporations. There are no Federal open seasons in units which have no Federal public lands.

Look at the map for the unit within which you wish to **harvest wildlife** to check the land status. For more detailed information, contact an office of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, or U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the area where you wish to harvest wildlife. A list of agency addresses and phone numbers can be found at the back of this booklet.

Will you be **fishing** waters under Federal jurisdiction? With the exception of those waters listed in the Federally Reserved Submerged Lands and Waters section (page 7), Federal jurisdiction does not include navigable waters even though they flow through Federal lands. For detailed descriptions of Fishery Management Areas, see State of Alaska Fishing Regulations.

## **4** **Is there an open season?**

Check the season and harvest limit tables in this booklet to see if there is an open season within a management unit for the species that you wish to take.

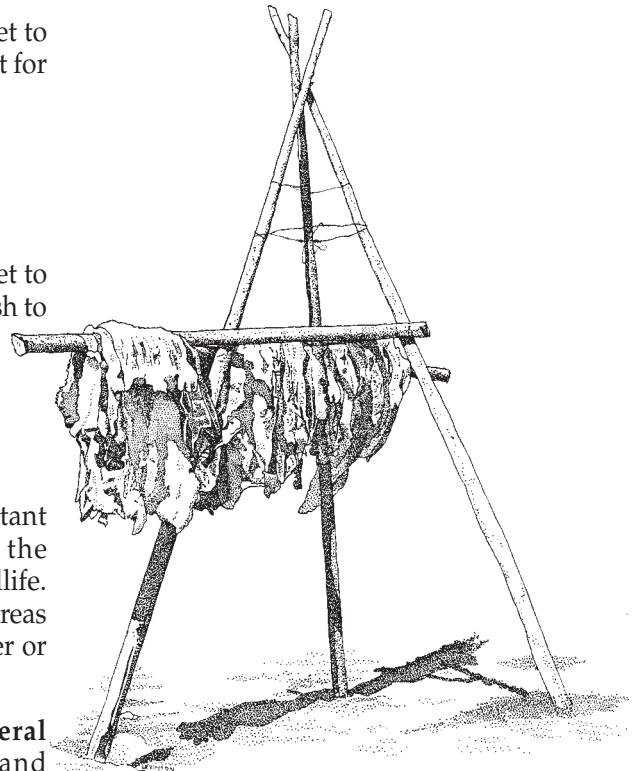
## **5** **What is the harvest limit?**

Check the season and harvest limit tables in this booklet to see what the harvest limit is for the species that you wish to take within each management unit.

## **6** **Other important information**

Several other sections of this booklet contain important information. Read the **Special Provisions** for the management unit where you wish to take fish or wildlife. This section lists unit-specific information, including areas where the subsistence take is restricted in some manner or where special opportunities occur.

Additional information can be found in the **General Information**, **Subsistence Taking of Wildlife**, and **Subsistence Taking of Finfish and Shellfish** sections of this booklet.



## **7** **Do you have the necessary licenses, permits, harvest tickets and tags?**

All Alaskan residents between the ages of 16 and 60 must possess a State of Alaska license to hunt or trap in Alaska. Residents 60 years or older may obtain a free permanent identification card issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. You must carry your license or identification card with you while taking wildlife for subsistence uses. Licenses can be purchased at many stores and other outlets in Alaska. Contact the local office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for more details.

Subsistence users, including designated hunters, must possess and comply with any permits, harvest tickets, or tags required by State or Federal regulations. In those instances where the Federal subsistence regulations require a Federal registration permit, subsistence users are not required to possess State permits, harvest tickets or tags. Licenses, permits, harvest tickets, tags or other documents must be shown, when requested, to State or Federal law enforcement agents. These permits, harvest tickets and tags are important tools used by wildlife managers to monitor and protect wildlife populations. Subsistence users are required to follow harvest reporting rules.

Permits may be required to take fish under Federal subsistence regulations within some areas. These permits are required by the State of Alaska and may be obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Permits are not required to take fish by rod and reel or on a line attached to a rod or pole under these regulations.

## **STATE OF ALASKA GENERAL HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS**

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Often the State of Alaska administers a hunt for the same species in the same area as a Federal subsistence hunt. You may not add the harvest limit from Federal subsistence and State general hunt regulations together to increase your harvest limit.

If you are not a rural resident of Alaska, you may hunt or fish on most Federal public lands, except national parks and monuments, under State of Alaska general hunting and fishing regulations. You may not hunt or fish under the Federal subsistence regulations in this booklet. Contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for a State regulations booklet and more information. Regulation booklets are available at many sporting goods stores.

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LANDS**

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Subsistence use of resources in areas managed by the National Park Service is subject to additional rules and is restricted to local rural residents in national preserves, national monuments and parks open to subsistence. National Park Service regulations govern which communities or individual residents qualify as local rural residents for specific National Park Service areas. Glacier Bay National Park, Katmai National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, "old" McKinley National Park, and Sitka National Historical Park are closed to subsistence. Users of National Park Service areas are responsible for complying with these regulations (codified in 36 CFR Part 13, Subparts A, B and C).

For more information about National Park Service regulations affecting subsistence contact:

**National Park Service**  
**Alaska Support Office**  
2525 Gambell Street  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
907/257-2649  
FAX: 907/257-2517

## **LAND OWNERSHIP PATTERNS**

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It is your responsibility to know who owns the land where you plan to take wildlife. State and private lands occur within many Federal public land units. These regulations apply only to Federal public lands, and maps in this booklet provide only a general outline of Federal public lands and closed areas. For more detailed information, contact an office of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service or U.S.D.A. Forest Service in the area where you wish to take fish or wildlife. A list of agency addresses and phone numbers can be found at the end of this booklet.

## **TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS**

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For detailed topographic maps, contact the U.S. Geological Survey, 4230 University Drive, Alaska Pacific University, Room 101, Anchorage, AK 99508, or telephone (907) 786-7011 or toll-free (800) USA-MAPS (in Alaska) to order quadrangle maps.

## **FEDERALLY RESERVED SUBMERGED LANDS AND WATERS**

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The regulations in this booklet apply to all non-navigable waters located on Federal public lands. On certain Federal public lands that were withdrawn for federal purposes before Alaska's statehood, these regulations apply to all waters, including those that are navigable. These areas include:

- The submerged land and waters which lie north of a line beginning at a point on the boundary between the United States and Canada on the Continental Divide at approximate Latitude 68°33'30" North, Longitude 141°00'00" West; thence westerly with the Continental Divide along the crest of portions of the Brooks Range and the DeLong Mountains to Cape Lisburne;
- The area north of 61° North Latitude, south of 61° 21' North Latitude, west of 163° 40' Longitude and east of the Bering Sea shoreline including Hazen Bay (a portion of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge);
- Nunivak Island and waters of the Bering Sea extending approximately 10 miles from the shoreline;
- The area west of the easternmost tip of Unimak Island to the terminus of the Aleutian Islands, except the area between Akutan Pass and Samalga Island (Aleutian Islands Unit, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge);
- Simeonof Island and all waters of the Pacific Ocean within one mile of Simeonof Island;
- The Semidi Islands and all waters of the Pacific Ocean lying between parallels 55°57'00" - 56°15'00" North Latitude and 156°30'00" - 157°00'00" West Longitude;
- Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and waters on Kodiak Island within the refuge boundary;
- Waters of the Pacific Ocean enclosed by the boundaries of Womans Bay, Gibson Cove (near the community of Kodiak) and an area defined by a line one-half mile on either side of the mouth of Karluk River, and extending seaward 3,000 feet (offshore of the community of Karluk on Kodiak Island);
- Afognak Island and all waters of the Pacific Ocean within 3 miles of the shoreline;
- The portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge within the former Kenai National Moose Range boundary.

## **SUBSISTENCE TAKING OF MARINE MAMMALS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS**

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These regulations do not apply to the subsistence taking of marine mammals or migratory birds. The taking of these species is regulated by the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, respectively. For information on **marine mammals**, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Management, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or telephone (907) 786-3800 or (800) 362-5148. For information on **migratory birds**, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or telephone (907) 786-3443 or (800) 368-8890.

## **ALTERNATIVE PERMITTING SYSTEMS**

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Community harvest and designated hunter permitting and reporting systems are now in place in some communities. These systems are based on customary and traditional practices, including those associated with cultural and religious beliefs. The Federal Subsistence Board continues to work towards establishing other alternative community harvest and reporting systems where appropriate.

## **HOW CHANGES ARE MADE TO THESE REGULATIONS**

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Ideas and suggestions from subsistence users provide valuable insight on how to improve the Federal Subsistence Management Program. Subsistence users participate in the development and review of regulations by submitting proposals to change existing regulations, commenting on proposals, and testifying at public meetings.

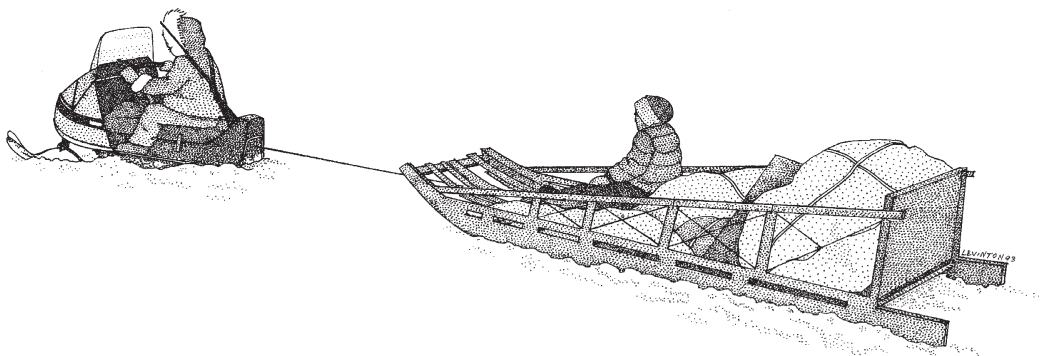
Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils provide an opportunity for rural Alaskans to be involved in the development of Federal subsistence regulations. Subsistence users have the opportunity to comment and offer input on subsistence issues at Council meetings, which are held at least twice a year.

Subsistence users also provide valuable wildlife harvest information. Cooperative agreements have been developed between the U.S. Government and several Native organizations to manage some subsistence activities more effectively. These organizations work in an advisory capacity and provide technical information and biological data to help address subsistence issues. In this manner, traditional and local knowledge is considered in subsistence management decisions.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF JULY 1, 2000 TO JUNE 30, 2001 REGULATIONS**

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August 1999	Proposed Federal Subsistence Regulations for the 2000 to 2001 regulatory year are published for public review.
August to October 1999	Public comment period on proposed regulations. Proposals to change Federal subsistence seasons, harvest limits, and methods and means of taking fish and wildlife may be submitted.
September to October 1999	Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, representing ten geographic areas of the state, meet to consider the proposed regulations, develop proposals, and hear public comment.
December 1999 to January 2000	Proposals to change regulations are distributed for public review and comment.
February to March 2000	Federal Subsistence Regional Councils meet to review regional proposals and staff analyses, and to develop recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board.
May 2000	Federal Subsistence Board meets to consider public and staff input on the proposals, hear additional public comment, and establish final regulations for the regulatory year.
July 1, 2000	Federal Subsistence Regulations for July 1, 2000, to June 30, 2001, become effective.



## PROPOSAL FORM

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### Proposal to Change 1999-2000 Federal Subsistence Management Regulations

Please use this form to request changes to federal regulations for the subsistence harvest of wildlife on federal public lands from July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000. You may propose changes to:

- Federal subsistence season dates
- Harvest limits
- Methods and means of harvest
- Customary and traditional use determinations
- For National Parks and National Monuments, individuals who live in residents zone communities (See 36 CFR 13.43) respectively for each park or monument and people who already hold a Section 13.44 subsistence use permit issued by the superintendent (See 36 CFR 13.44) may apply for an individual C & T use determination.

**Submit proposals by  
5 p.m. on November 5, 1999, to:**

**Federal Subsistence Board  
1011 E. Tudor Road, Room 159  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199**

The current federal subsistence management regulations booklet (1999-2000 regulations) can be used as a reference in developing proposals. Copies of the proposed regulations as published in the Federal Register will also be available after mid-August.

It is not necessary to use this form to submit a proposal, but please insure that all information requested on the following page is included in your submission. A separate form should be submitted for each proposed change. Forms submitted by Fax at (907) 786-3898 or by EMail at bill\_knauer@fws.gov will be considered originals.

For additional materials or information:

Telephone: (800) 478-1456 or (907) 786-3888  
TTY available at (907) 786-3595 or through the  
Federal Relay Service (800) 877-8339.  
Fax: (907) 786-3898  
EMail: bill\_knauer@fws.gov

Electronic copies of this form are available on the Office of Subsistence Management Internet Home Page at [www.r7.fws.gov/asm/home.html](http://www.r7.fws.gov/asm/home.html)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_

*Please answer the following questions. Attach additional sheets as necessary.*

1. What regulation do you wish to change?

*Include unit number(s) and species, and, if possible, quote the current regulation.*

2. How would you like to see the regulation changed?

*Write the regulation the way you would like to see it written.*

3. Why should this regulation change be made?

4. Have you observed anything about wildlife population trends - increases or declines - that will assist the Federal Subsistence Board in reviewing your proposal?

5. How will this change affect subsistence users?

*Please answer questions 6-9 only if you are proposing a change to a customary and traditional use determination.*

6. Which communities have used this resource? Indicate time periods if possible.

7. Where has the resource been harvested? Indicate specific areas if possible.

8. In what months has the resource been harvested?

9. Is there any additional information that supports your proposal, such as how the resource is processed, the extent that it is shared, other resources harvested by the communities, how knowledge of fish and hunting is passed down, or any other information?